



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

March 20, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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First District
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Fifth District

**TRANSITION OF THE OPERATIONAL AREA TERRORISM WORKING GROUP
(TWG) ORGANIZATION**

I want to inform you that lead responsibility for the Los Angeles County Operational Area (OA) Terrorism Working Group (TWG) has transitioned from the Office of Emergency Management to the Sheriff's Department.

On August 6, 1996, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Emergency Management Council to establish a multi-disciplinary working group to develop plans to train and equip first responders to handle acts of terrorism in Los Angeles County. Among other things, the motion called for a review of airport security measures; formation of a medical task force trained and equipped to respond to acts of terrorism; and an aggressive search for terrorism preparedness funding. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was assigned to coordinate this planning effort, and we submitted the first in an ongoing series of quarterly status reports to your Board on October 8, 1996. I am pleased to report that the TWG has completed work on all of the originally assigned tasks. Since that time, the Los Angeles County OA has steadily improved its ability to respond to terrorist threats through the work of the TWG, the Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) Group, and a number of TWG planning subcommittees. This effort has been so successful that the TWG has been modeled by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the TEW is being looked at as a national model. The agencies that formed the backbone of this successful TWG work effort include the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and the Chief Administrative Office, OEM.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, and in line with the Sheriff's expanded role as the Director of Homeland Security, it is appropriate to transfer day-to-day responsibility for the TWG to the Sheriff's Department. Effective immediately the Sheriff's

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Department will chair the regular, ongoing TWG meetings. OEM will continue to serve as one of the TWG's core members. The Sheriff's Department will assume lead responsibility for coordinating periodic status reports to your Board on terrorism planning. As the OA Coordinator, OEM will continue to coordinate federal terrorism grants that are passed through OES.

Since the September 11 attacks, cities and County departments alike have focused on response activities and enhanced preparations. As a result, we have a much greater understanding of the demands that will be placed on our operational area in the wake of a future terrorist attack. Because of these experiences, plans are underway to revise the TWG's overall mission and organizational structure and to develop a vision statement in line with the current needs of the OA. Los Angeles County continues to be a potential target for terrorist organizations, but your leadership and support, along with the new structure and leadership of the TWG, will assist us to move to the next level of anti-terrorism readiness in this county.

Questions regarding the TWG may be directed to Captain Mike Grossman in the Sheriff's Emergency Operations Bureau, at (323) 980-2201. Questions regarding OA emergency and disaster response planning may be directed to Constance Perett in the Office of Emergency Management at (323) 980-2261. <mailto:cflores@LACOEOC.ORG>

DEJ:CP
CF:cm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Emergency Management Council
Emergency Preparedness Commission for the County and Cities of Los Angeles
Terrorism Working Group